

# Transition to In-Person Learning

Transition to In-Person Learning: Health & Safety Protocols



The Somerville Public Schools and the City of Somerville have instituted a comprehensive set of health and safety measures to minimize risks for all students and adults in schools.



#### DAILY HEALTH SCREENING

All students and adults screen for symptoms of illness every morning and stay home from school when sick.



#### FACE COVERING

Masks covering the mouth and nose are required at all times in schools and on buses, except during scheduled mask breaks and when eating or drinking.



#### PHYSICAL DISTANCING

All school spaces will be set up to enable 6 feet of physical distancing, and students and staff will utilize outdoor space wherever possible.



#### HAND WASHING

Everyone in school washes their hands thoroughly with soap or sanitizer throughout the day.



#### **COVID-19 TESTING**

All students and staff receive a baseline test for coronavirus and are tested regularly to identify and isolate any positive cases.



#### AIR QUALITY

Prior to reopening, school buildings will have been upgraded with investments to improve ventilation and filtration, including centralized MERV-13 filters, portable HEPA filters, and Carbon Dioxide monitors.



#### PUBLIC HEALTH METRICS

The City and school district monitor transmission rates and other public health data to ensure it is safe to continue the transition to in-person learning.



# **Successful Transition of Phase 2A**



- Phase 2A students and teachers successfully transitioned to in-person learning last week
- Includes students and teachers in highest needs special education programs
- Approximately 80 students and 60 staff returned to in-person learning at Somerville High School and the Capuano Early Childhood Center
- Students currently attending half days 4 days a week (M-Tu-Th-F)
- Wednesday remains a remote day
- Students and staff completed baseline Covid testing & required to participate in routine Covid testing while in-person

### Transition to In-Person Learning: Schedule of Phases

**NOTE:** This schedule is subject to change. Dates are dependent upon completion of facilities work related to air quality, as well as public health indicators.



| Phase | Teachers<br>Return* | Students<br>Return* | Eligible for In-Person Learning  | Details*   |
|-------|---------------------|---------------------|--|--|
| 1     | Ongoing             | Ongoing             | Selected populations of students in high needs<br>special education programs**   | Voluntary pilot program. Students attend school in-person four days per week for 2 hours each day, and learn remotely on Wednesdays.   |
| 2A    | March 1             | March 4             | Selected populations of students in high needs<br>special education programs**   | Expansion of student groups in Phase 1 above. Students attend school in-person (half-day until specified date), four days per week, and learn remotely on Wednesdays.  |
| 2B    | March 15            | March 18            | <ul> <li>Additional populations of high needs<br/>students***</li> <li>English Learners (K-8) in SEI 1</li> <li>Multilingual Learning Lab students (9-12)</li> <li>Seniors in Career &amp; Technical Ed. (CTE)^</li> </ul>     | Students attend school in-person four days per week (full-day), and learn remotely on Wednesdays.  |
| 3A    | March 22            | March 25            | <ul> <li>All pre-kindergarten and kindergarten<br/>students</li> <li>Somerville Child Care Center students</li> <li>Next Wave / Full Circle students</li> <li>Additional populations of high needs<br/>students****</li> </ul> | Hybrid learning model begins. Students are organized into two cohorts that alternate between learning in-school and learning remotely: One cohort attends school in-person on Mondays and Tuesdays, the other on Thursdays and Fridays. All students learn remotely on Wednesdays. |
| 3B    | March 29            | April 1             | All students in grades 1 & 2   | Same as Phase 3A above.  |
| 4A    | April 5             | April 8             | All students in grades 3 & 4   | Same as Phase 3A above.  |
| 4B    | April 26            | April 29            | All students in grades 5-8   | Same as Phase 3A above.  |

<sup>\*</sup> In the first week of each phase, teachers will work from their classrooms Monday through Wednesday, and all students in the group will learn remotely. Students will begin in-person learning on Thursday and Friday of that week. The schedules described in "Details" begin during the second week of each phase.

The district is working on a schedule to return homeless and agency-involved students to in-person learning. With the exception of some specialized programs, most high school students (9-12) will remain in remote learning until further notice.

<sup>\*\*</sup> AIM (PK-8), SKIP, SHIP, Life Skills (1-2), Multi-graded (1-2)

<sup>\*\*\*</sup> ECIP, Multi-graded (3-8), Life Skills (3-12), Transition Classroom, RR & ASD Learning Labs (9-12), Multilingual Learning Labs (9-12)

<sup>\*\*\*\*</sup> SEEK, Redirect and House Learning Labs (9-12)

<sup>^</sup>Pending safety evaluation of shops

# **Transition to In-Person Learning:**Building Assignments



| For students enrolled at | In-person learning will be held at  | Exceptions  |  |
|--------------------------|---|---|--|
| Argenziano               | Argenziano  |   |  |
| Brown                    | Somerville High School (Modular Classrooms)   |   |  |
| Capuano                  | Capuano   |   |  |
| East Somerville          | East Somerville   |   |  |
| Healey                   | Somerville High School  | Grades 5-8 will learn in-person at the Healey.<br>English Learners K-4 (SEI Level 1) will learn in-<br>person at Argenziano.<br>Head Start Pre-K will remain remote.                                      |  |
| Kennedy                  | Kennedy   | SKIP and LifeSkills K-8 will learn in-person at the high school.  |  |
| Next Wave / Full Circle  | Next Wave / Full Circle Location (at Somerville High School building)                               |   |  |
| Somerville High School   | Most general education students in grades 9-12 will remain in remote learning until further notice. | PreK-12 students in high-needs special education programs, English Learners at SEI Level 1 (Grades 5-8), and students in the Learning Labs (Grades 9-12) will attend school in-person at the high school. |  |
| Winter Hill              | Somerville High School  |   |  |
| West Somerville          | West Somerville   |   |  |

# Ready to welcome students & staff in Phase 2B

- Phase 2B returns week of March 15
- Teachers will be teaching remotely from their classrooms on Mon & Tue
- Students' first day of in-person learning is Thursday, March 18
- Students attending full days 4 days a week (M-Tu-Th-F)
- Wednesday remains a remote day for all students and staff
- Students and staff required to complete baseline Covid testing participate in routine Covid testing while in-person
- Wednesday remains a remote day

### Phase 2B includes:

- Additional students in high needs special education programs: ECIP, Multi-Grades (3-8), Life Skills (3-12), Transition Program, and RR & ASD Learning Labs (9-12)
- English learners (K-8) in SEI1
- Multilingual Learning Lab students (9-12)
- CTE seniors (pending safety evaluation of shops)
- 50 SHS juniors in CTE programs to help teachers in shops

# Ready to welcome students & staff in Phase 3A

- Phase 3A returns week of March 22
- Students in Phase 3A will be the first to transition to the hybrid in-person model
- Students divided into two cohorts:
  - Cohort A attends in-person
     Monday/Tuesday and is remote
     Thursday/Friday
  - Cohort B attends in-person
     Thursday/Friday and is remote
     Monday/Tuesday
  - Wednesdays remain a remote day across the district

### Phase 3A includes:

- All pre-K and Kindergarten students in the district
- Students in SEEK program
- Redirect and House Learning Labs (9-12)
- Next Wave / Full Circle
- Somerville Child Care Center

# PreK and K Return to School Plan

Preschool and Kindergarten children have unique developmental needs to consider as we prepare for a successful transition to in-person learning.

### Important considerations:

- Children will be getting to know buildings they have never been in, new routines, and in many cases, staff and peers they have never met in person
- Best practices for orienting young children to school and helping children who may need time to acclimate successfully include:
  - a classroom visit, followed by
  - a half day schedule to begin with (for 2 or 3 days), then
  - moving to the regular full day
- To help children and families prepare for this transition, we will:
  - Provide detailed information in advance to help families feel comfortable
  - Start with half-day school days before transitioning to full time

# What will PreK & K look like the first 3 weeks?

• Week 1: Half Day Phase-In Days: A short and intentional phase-in establishes routines that teachers can build upon while children are adapting and developing stamina for in-person learning. Students would come to school with their cohort for 1 day of shortened learning time.

March 26

- Cohort A March 25 Cohort B
- o 8:45 a.m. 11 a.m.
- Grab and Go Lunch
- Week 2: Half Day Phase-In Days: Students would come to school with their cohort for 2 days of shortened learning time.
  - Cohort A March 29 & 30 Cohort B March 31 & April 1
  - 8:45 a.m. 11 a.m.
  - Grab and Go Lunch
- Week 3: Beginning the week of April 5th
  - Cohort A April 5 & 6 Cohort B April 8 & 9
  - o 8:45 a.m. 1:45 p.m. (full day) PreK
  - 8:10 a.m 1:45 p.m. (full day)

# What will in-person Hybrid Learning look like?

### **In-Person Learning (2 days)**

- Breakfast
- Morning Meeting
- X Block
- Math and Literacy
- Recess and Lunch
- Choice Time
- Structured and unstructured play both inside and outside
- Daily activities to address social emotional learning and community building.

### Remote Learning (3 days)

- Prioritizing continuity during remote days so all students feel connected to their class
- Morning Meeting
- X Block
- Specialists
- Asynchronous work
- Hands-on and exploratory experiences to enhance and enrich in-person learning
- Kindergarten students will have 2 specialists blocks on remote days

<sup>\*\*</sup> We are continuing to work with our Somerville Educators Union to finalize plans for our hybrid model, and will share additional details once the model is finalized.

# **Additional Support and Programming**

### **Social-Emotional Learning / Support**

- School counselors developed age-appropriate SEL lessons that teachers can access
- Morning meetings to help set the tone for the start of the day
- Covid-targeted resources to help students process impact of Covid-19
- Continuing to use Second Step SEL curriculum to help build safe and supportive communities for every student
- Continuing to work with partner agencies on providing SEL and mental health supports
- Professional development for staff focused on relationship-building and strategies to help students with transition to in-person learning

## **Community Schools Afterschool**

- Continue programming at Argenziano,
   Brown, Capuano, ESCS, Healey,
   Kennedy, Winter Hill, WSNS
- Once in-person learning begins for PK/K (week of March 22), cohort schedule will be reversed to coincide and provide continuity of in-person care:
  - Cohort A will switch to Monday/Tuesday afterschool
  - Cohort B will switch to Thursday/Friday afterschool
- Working with DPW to coordinate setup of outdoors tents mid-March as weather permits